

practical in policy terms and politically acceptable.

(3) **ACTIVITIES.**—The Hemisphere Energy Cooperation Forum should implement the following activities:

(A) An Energy Crisis Initiative that will establish measures to respond to temporary energy supply disruptions, including through—

(i) strengthening sea-lane and infrastructure security;

(ii) implementing a real-time emergency information sharing system;

(iii) encouraging members to have emergency mechanisms and contingency plans in place; and

(iv) establishing a Western Hemisphere energy crisis response mechanism as authorized under section 705(c).

(B) An Energy Sustainability Initiative to facilitate long-term supply security through fostering reliable supply sources of fuels, including development, deployment, and commercialization of technologies for sustainable renewable fuels within the region, including activities that—

(i) promote production and trade in sustainable energy, including energy from biomass;

(ii) facilitate investment, trade, and technology cooperation in energy infrastructure, petroleum products, natural gas (including liquefied natural gas), energy efficiency (including automotive efficiency), clean fossil energy, renewable energy, and carbon sequestration;

(iii) promote regional infrastructure and market integration;

(iv) develop effective and stable regulatory frameworks;

(v) develop renewable fuels standards and renewable portfolio standards;

(vi) establish educational training and exchange programs between member countries; and

(vii) identify and remove barriers to trade in technology, services, and commodities.

(C) An Energy for Development Initiative to promote energy access for underdeveloped areas through energy policy and infrastructure development, including activities that—

(i) increase access to energy services for the poor;

(ii) improve energy sector market conditions;

(iii) promote rural development through biomass energy production and use;

(iv) increase transparency of, and participation in, energy infrastructure projects;

(v) promote development and deployment of technology for clean and sustainable energy development, including biofuel and clean coal technologies; and

(vi) facilitate use of carbon sequestration methods in agriculture and forestry and linking greenhouse gas emissions reduction programs to international carbon markets.

(c) **HEMISPHERE ENERGY INDUSTRY GROUP.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Energy, should approach the governments of other countries in the Western Hemisphere to seek cooperation in establishing a Hemisphere Energy Industry Group, to be coordinated by the United States Government, involving industry representatives and government representatives from the Western Hemisphere.

(2) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the forum should be to increase public-private partnerships, foster private investment, and enable countries of the Western Hemisphere to devise energy agendas compatible with industry capacity and cognizant of industry goals.

(3) **TOPICS OF DIALOGUES.**—Topics for the forum should include—

(A) promotion of a secure investment climate;

(B) development and deployment of biofuels and other alternative fuels and clean electrical production facilities, including clean coal and carbon sequestration;

(C) development and deployment of energy efficient technologies and practices, including in the industrial, residential, and transportation sectors;

(D) investment in oil and natural gas production and distribution;

(E) transparency of energy production and reserves data;

(F) research promotion; and

(G) training and education exchange programs.

(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report on the implementation of this section, including the strategy and benchmarks for measurement of progress developed under this section.

SEC. 707. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.

In this title, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SA 1503. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, to reduce our Nation’s dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title II, add the following:

SEC. 269. GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

(a) **DEFINITION OF LEED SILVER STANDARD.**—In this section, the term “LEED silver standard” means the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating standard identified as silver by the United States Green Building Council.

(b) **GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL BUILDINGS.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a Federal building for which the design phase for construction or major renovation is begun after the date of enactment of this Act shall be designed, constructed, and certified to meet, at a minimum, the LEED silver standard.

(2) **DETERMINATION OF IMPRACTICABILITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (C)(ii), the requirement under paragraph (1) shall not apply to a Federal building if the head of the Federal agency with jurisdiction over the Federal building, in accordance with the factors described in subparagraph (B), determines that compliance with the requirement under paragraph (1) would be impracticable.

(B) **FACTORS FOR DETERMINATION.**—In determining whether compliance with the requirement under paragraph (1) would be impracticable, the head of the Federal agency with jurisdiction over the Federal building shall determine—

(i) the quantity of energy required by each activity carried out in the Federal building; and

(ii) whether the Federal building is used to carry out an activity relating to national security.

(C) **REPORT.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the head of each Federal agency shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a report that includes a description of each Federal building for which the head of the Agency with jurisdiction over the Federal building determined that compliance with the requirement under paragraph (1) would be impracticable.

(ii) **REVIEW BY SECRETARY.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report from a head of a Federal agency under clause (i), the Secretary shall review the report and notify the head of the Federal agency on whether any Federal building described in the report submitted by the head of the Federal agency shall be required to comply with the requirement under paragraph (1).

(D) **REGULATIONS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out this paragraph.

(3) **STUDY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress the results of a study comparing—

(i) the expected energy savings resulting from the implementation of this section; with

(ii) energy savings under all other Federal energy savings requirements.

(B) **INCLUSION.**—The Secretary shall include in the report any recommendations for changes to Federal law necessary to reduce or eliminate duplicative or inconsistent Federal energy savings requirements.

SA 1504. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, to reduce our Nation’s dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . TELECOMMUTING TAX CREDIT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to business related credits) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 450. TELECOMMUTING CREDIT.

“(a) **DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.**—For purposes of section 38, the amount of the telecommuting credit determined under this section for the taxable year shall be equal to 40 percent of the qualified first-year wages for such year.

“(b) **QUALIFIED FIRST-YEAR WAGES.**—For purposes of this section—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘qualified first-year wages’ means, with respect to any individual, qualified wages attributable to service rendered during the 1-year period beginning with the day the individual begins work for the employer.

“(2) **QUALIFIED WAGES.**—The term ‘qualified wages’ means the wages paid or incurred by the employer during the taxable year to qualified telecommuters.

“(3) **ONLY FIRST \$6,000 OF WAGES PER YEAR TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.**—The amount of the qualified first-year wages which may be taken into account with respect to any individual shall not exceed \$6,000 per year.